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SENATE RESOLUTION 176
By Dixon

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mr. Willie Nelson for his tremendous accomplishments in business and his dedicated service to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to salute the accomplishments of those enterprising business and professional people of this State who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding and noteworthy individual is Mr. Willie Nelson, who is the owner of the highly successful minority contracting company, Nelson, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, a native of Sardis, Mississippi, Mr. Nelson has been involved with the trade of plumbing since his early childhood; and

WHEREAS, as a boy, Mr. Nelson would regularly accompany his father to various plumbing jobs and carefully observe the intricacies of the trade; and

WHEREAS, upon the death of his father, Mr. Nelson assumed his father's business at the age of eighteen; and

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WHEREAS, Willie Nelson continued to work while commuting 125 miles to Jackson State University; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, Mr. Nelson received an offer to work for Wilder Construction on a 50-unit, low-income apartment complex in Oxford, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, his outstanding work in Oxford led to numerous other contracting opportunities throughout Mississippi and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, despite several obstacles, including theft and vandalism, Mr. Nelson remained determined to finish his projects on time and uphold the integrity of his work; and

WHEREAS, through hard work and dedication, he has successfully transformed his company from a two-employee, one-truck business into a multi-million dollar contracting firm that employs 125 people and utilizes 50 trucks; and

WHEREAS, due to its tremendous 2000 revenue of 7.8 million dollars and its remarkable sales growth of 200 percent from 1996 to 2000, Nelson, Inc. was ranked 80 in *Inc. Magazine's* 2001 list of the top 100 fastest-growing inner-city companies; and

WHEREAS, Nelson, Inc. currently contracts work exclusively on commercial projects; throughout the past few years, Nelson Inc. has compiled an impressive list of commercial projects, including Adelphia Coliseum, the Nissan Automotive Plant in Canton, Mississippi, and his current project with the new arena for the Memphis Grizzlies; and

WHEREAS, his flawless record with the Better Business Bureau of the Mid-South and the Tennessee Consumer Affairs Office confirms his impeccable reputation as a contractor and businessman; and

WHEREAS, an active member of his community, Mr. Nelson participates in numerous civic and professional organizations including the National Association of Minority Contractors in which he serves as the local chapter President; and

WHEREAS, Willie Nelson displays his deep religious faith and conviction through his devout service on the Board of Trustees at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nelson, despite having a demanding profession, has provided a fine example of how to excel at a career and still remain devoted to family; and

WHEREAS, his professional accomplishments aside, he is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his loving wife, Hattie; and

WHEREAS, he is also the adoring father of Willie Nelson II, Latoya Nelson, and Christian Nelson; and

WHEREAS, Nelson, Inc. has become a family business, as Mrs. Nelson and their son Willie Nelson II, co-own and work in the business with Mr. Nelson; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nelson's remarkable success as a businessman is directly attributable to his unwavering reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and honesty and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, an extremely giving person, he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nelson exemplifies the sterling character and stalwart determination that are characteristic of a true Tennessean and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor and commend Mr. Willie Nelson for his outstanding accomplishments in business as a minority contractor and recognize him for his outstanding dedication to his community and his exemplary service to the people of the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.